Statement - II

The Districts covered under Operation Flood in Karnataka and Uttar Pradesh are as given below :

KARNATAKA	
Bangalore	Chikmaglur
Kolar	Mysore
Belgaum	Mandya
Bijapur	Raichur
Dharvad	Bellary
North Kanara	South kanada
Gulbarga	Shimoga
Bidar	Chitradurga
Hassan	Tumkur
UTTAR PRADESH	
Agra	Jaunpur
Aligarh	Kanpur
Allahabad	Lucknow
Ballia	Mainpuri
Barabanki	Mathura
Bidaun	Meerut
Bijnor	Mirzapur
Bulandshar	Moradabad
Etah	Muxafarnagar
Etawa	Raibaraily
Farrukhabad	Saharanpur
Fatehpur	Sitapur
Gaziabad	Sultanpur
Gazipur	Unnao
Hardoi	Varanasi

Discrepancy in Rice Stock

2192. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL :
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has been reported that rice worth Rs. 1400 crore is missing from the PDS as appearing in the *'Indian Express'*, dated July 3, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein ;

(c) whether the Government have ordered special audit into the discrepancy in rice stocks between the figures of Food Ministry and the Food Corporation of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the action taken or proposed to be taken against the guilty officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The assumption that rice is missing from the FCI godowns as published in *'Indian Express'* dated July 3, 1997 is due to discrepencies in stocks arrising out of differences in reporting methods adopted by Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs and the FCI. However, the discrepencies are being reconciled.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government have ordered a special audit of stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. The audit report is awaited.

Price Exemption of Doxycycline

2193. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doxycycline was exempted from price control on the basis of R&D;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date on which the exemption was withdrawn and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The exemption on bulk drug Doxycycline and its formulations from price control was granted by the Government on the basis of the recommendations of the Expert Group on Technology Issues constituted for this purpose. This exemption was granted for a period of three years from 25.8.95 to 28.4.98 to M/s. Ranbaxy Ltd.

(c) However, following receipt of complaints that the exemption was granted without fully examining all aspects, the same Expert Group was asked by the Government to take a fresh look at the case. The members of the Expert Group gave their views on various aspects related to grant of the exemption. The report of the Committee was examined by the Government, and it was decided to withdraw the exemption. The exemption was withdrawn vide Notification No. 616 (E) dated 3.9.96.

Production and Stock of Sugar

2194. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL :
SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY:
SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of sugar produced by various States during the last three years, State-wise;